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Introduction

My college prayer partner was the type of person who often shared the details of her personal struggles with others. “Girl, why do you always tell people *your* business?” I asked. “It’s not my business; it’s God’s business,” she responded. Sharing her struggles in the context of sharing how God caused her to triumph over those struggles was an effective ministry tool. Her life’s affairs were God’s business.

I Love Him Lord, but He’s Not a Christian was birthed out of my past personal struggles. I professed my uncompromising love for Jesus Christ to a man who was not a Christian, believing that my bold confession would establish the rules of our courtship. Although he did not believe in my God, I thought that my strong belief would win the struggle over his unbelief. His equally strong renouncement—“I will never be a Christian”—did not deter my involvement with him because he was such a “nice guy.” I was convinced that he would change. During that time, he did not change. I changed. I found myself professing that Jesus was the light of my life, yet walking in darkness. Through my actions, I opened my entire being to toxins that could have destroyed me.

Many of us have settled for toxic relationships, buying into the notion that it is better to have someone than exist alone. You are probably like I once was, being courted by men whom you know are not Christians, yet you believe in God for their salvation, with holy matrimony as the ultimate goal. You may

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even be in a relationship with a man who mirrors your response to the things of God, but without his own personal relationship with God, such a man can only mimic your behavior.

As Christians, oftentimes we know what is right. However, finding strength to do the right thing is a different story. Therefore, I write this book to share God's response to my cry, "I love him Lord, but he's not a Christian." This book is a tool to help guide unmarried Christian women through deliverance from toxic relationships. The Holy Scriptures support the fact that God desires His daughters to exist in healthy relationships, free of the toxins that seek to hinder us from enjoying the abundant life God ordained for us. *I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly* (John 10:10).

Unequally yoked relationships, whether you are involved with someone who is not saved or someone who is immature in his relationship with Jesus Christ, will result in toxic relationships. Thus, God's admonition against attachments with unbelievers is the guiding law for the unmarried Christian woman's deliverance from toxic relationships. *Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?* (2 Corinthians 6:14).

I recognize that some of our Christian sisters have found themselves in toxic marriages. The Word of God instructs the Christian spouse to stay in that marriage and win the unsaved mate over with gentleness (1 Peter 3:1-5). God honors the Christian

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woman's submission to her husband, so long as he does not require her to do something in violation of God's Word. *Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord* (Colossians 3:18). Sisters, the submission instruction is for wives. The marriage covenant that God modeled after His covenant with the church requires sacrifices unlike those in other relationships. The Holy Scriptures shared in this book pave the way for your deliverance from toxic relationships with unbelievers *prior to* marriage.

The toxin-free relationship I encourage in *I Love Him Lord, but He's Not a Christian* is a relationship between a Christian man and Christian woman in which the couple seeks God's will concerning whether they are to enter into a marriage covenant. The relationship to which I refer is not casual dating, but dating to gather information to determine whether the individual is the person you are to marry. Jesus Christ must be the basis for the toxin-free relationship.

I Love Him Lord, but He's Not a Christian encourages you, through God's Word, to seek freedom from the toxic relationship you may be in, forsake the toxic relationship you may be considering, or thwart the plan of the enemy to engage you in toxic relationships in the future. Many Christian women open their hearts to toxic relationships, creating voids that can only be filled through obedience to God's Word. If this is your situation, I encourage you to allow God the Father; God the Son, Jesus Christ; and God the Holy Spirit to fill the missing pieces in your heart as you journey toward the equally yoked relationship God ordained for you.

I Love Him Lord, but He's Not a Christian

This book also is a guide designed to help believers empower their friends and loved ones to ward off and get out of toxic relationships. Allow God to use you to hold fellow believers accountable for their relationships with God.

Although this book is addressed to my fellow Christian sisters, it is a message for my Christian brothers as well. God hears your cry: "I love her Lord, but she's not a Christian." Unarguably, you face many of the same challenges created by toxic relationships. The dominating male ego may convince you that you have the power to change a woman. Oftentimes, it is you who is changed, all in the pursuit of a woman's outer deceitful beauty. *Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised* (Proverbs 31:30). I challenge you, my Christian brothers, to preserve yourselves for a woman who fears the Lord. The beauty of the woman who fears God exudes from the inside out.

Married men and women will also benefit from the Bible principles taught in *I Love Him Lord, but He's Not a Christian*. Married men, be reminded of the great responsibility you have as Christian husbands – sacrificially love your wife as Christ loves the church. Be mighty men of God, distinct from worldly men, and be renewed in your commitment to a Godly marriage.

Married women in equally yoked unions should remember the blessing of existing in a union ordained by God. *I Love Him Lord, but He's Not a Christian* will help you understand how valuable you are to God and be encouraged to be a mighty woman of

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God, worthy of God's very best. For Christian married women whose husbands fall short of loving them as Christ loves the church, this book will encourage you to pray for your husband so that you can enjoy the benefit of the love God intended for you to have. *I Love Him Lord, but He's Not a Christian* will help us all embrace the abundant life God has for us in our relationships.